

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Calendar of Events March - August 2006



All programs and events are open to the public.
Events are free unless noted otherwise.

Acadian Cultural Center
501 Fisher Road, Lafayette
337-232-0789
Open daily 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Daily programs at the center

- **Ranger's Choice** – 10:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Ranger talks on various topics.
- **Films** – *The Cajun Way: Echoes of Acadia* is shown on the hour beginning at 9:00 a.m. with last showing at 4:00 p.m. Chronicles the history of the Acadian people from deportation to migration and settlement in south Louisiana. 35 minutes. *Atchafalaya Revisted* is shown after each *Cajun Way* showing and shares nature photographer C.C. Lockwood's return to America's largest swamp, exploring cultural and natural changes since the great flood of 1927. 16 minutes.

Ranger-guided boat tours of Bayou Vermilion

Tuesday through Saturdays, March 4 through June 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Ranger-guided tours explore the bayou in a traditional Louisiana boat. Full tour package includes boat tour, self-guided tour of Vermilionville, and lunch at Vermilionville's restaurant. Boat tours only also available. Reservations required. For ticket prices and information, call 337-233-4077.

Especially for kids

Cultural Camp – Summer day camps for children 6-8 (8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 12-16 or July 17-21; fee \$25) and children 9-11 (8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. June 26-30 or July 24-28; fee \$50). Registration is currently underway.

Acadian Cultural Center activities continue below.

Acadian Cultural Center continued

Special events

Haut Jura exhibit – Through September. Take a trip to a French Regional Natural Park high in the Alps via photographs and text.

Cajun Music Traditions – Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Noted fiddler Hadley Castille traces generational changes in Cajun music and provides a toe-tapping good time.

Tales from the Bayou Revisited – Saturday, April 1. Jennifer Miller portrays 19th-century African-American heroine Harriet Tubman, Allen Simon shares memories of growing up Cajun, and Josie Davis and Mary Ann Leonard tell stories with a German flavor.

Cajun Cooking – Saturday, April 8. Beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Acadian Cultural Center auditorium, Ryan Brasseaux provides a history of Cajun cooking. At 7:00 p.m., things heat up with a Cajun cooking demonstration by Marcelle Bienvenue (with samples!) next door at Vermilionville, Lafayette's Cajun/Creole heritage park, and a booksigning by Brasseaux and Bienvenue of *Stir the Pot: The History of Cajun Cuisine*.

Music, Dance, and More – Saturday, May 13, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Folkloric dance troupe Renaissance Cadienne performs songs and dances of the Acadians from their life in Acadie (now Nova Scotia in Canada) to their arrival in Louisiana, where they became known as Cajuns. Dressed in traditional period clothing, the troupe sings traditional songs, presents the Mardi Gras ritual of chasing the chicken, performs a mock wedding, and ends the day with an interactive dancing lesson.

Lache Pas la Patate Festival – Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Celebrate the Cajun saying "*Lache pas la patate*" ---"Don't drop the potato, don't forget where you came from." Food, music, crafts, and children's activities reflect the many cultural traditions that have flourished in the Lafayette area. Buy treats from Cajun to German to Spanish cuisine. Dance to bands with a zydeco, Latin, or swamp pop beat. Admire local crafts such as Chitimacha Indian basket-weaving, making fiddles and Mardi Gras costumes, spinning, weaving, and caning chairs. Shop for a hand-made doll or rosary or jar of jam while the kids enjoy games and activities.



Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
314 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux
985-448-1375
Open Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Boat tours of Bayou Lafourche

- **Madewood Plantation** – Sundays and Mondays, March through May, 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cruise Bayou Lafourche with a ranger in a traditional Louisiana wooden boat and visit historic Madewood Plantation for a house and garden tour and a three-course lunch. \$28 per person.
- **E.D. White Historic Site** – Saturdays, March through May, 10:00 a.m.-noon. Cruise Bayou Lafourche with a ranger in a traditional Louisiana wooden boat and visit home of former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice. \$10 per person.

Monday night music

Cajun music jam session Mondays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Live performances by local musicians.

Walking tours

Saturday and Sundays, 2:00 p.m. Stroll through historic Thibodaux with a park ranger. Call for dates.

Special exhibits

- **Myths and Monsters** – March 4 through April 28. Art by Nicholls State University students.
- **Regional Retrospective** – May through August. Thibodaux artist Dale Rogers Sr. explores southern Louisiana through his art.

Especially for kids

Wetlands Camp – Summer day camps for children 7-8 (9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. July 17-21; fee \$25) and children 9-11 (8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. June 12-16 or June 26-30; fee \$40). Registration begins May 2.



Prairie Acadian Cultural Center
250 West Park Avenue, Eunice
337-457-7700
Open Tuesday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday programs

- **Folklife demonstrations** – Saturdays 3:00-6:00 p.m. Cooking, quilting, music, and dancing.
- ***Rendez-vous des Cajuns* at the Liberty Theatre** – Saturdays 6:00-7:30 p.m. Live Cajun and zydeco music at the Liberty Theatre (next door to the center). Call 337-457-7389 for programming. Adults \$5, children 6-11 \$3, children 5 and under free.

Free lessons

Lessons in accordion, fiddle, guitar, dancing, and Cajun French – Free lessons presented by the Cajun Culture and Music Club. For more information, call 337-457-8499.

Especially for kids

Cultural Camp – Summer day camps for children 9-10 (8:30 a.m.-noon June 19-23 or July 10-14).



Barataria Preserve
6588 Barataria Boulevard, Marrero (near Crown Point)
504-589-2330 ext. 10
Open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ranger-guided tours daily

10:00 a.m. trail walk daily except during special events. Check at visitor center for trail location.

Canoeing and birdwatching

- **Canoe treks** – 9:30 a.m. every Saturday morning in March, April, and May. Ranger-guided paddle through preserve waterways. Limited space; call for reservations and rental information for canoes and kayaks.
- **Birdwatching walks** – Sunday, March 19, and Saturday, April 8, 8:00-11:00 a.m. Ranger-led walks for beginning and intermediate birders. Limited space; call for reservations.

Under the full moon

- **Sunset stroll** – Take a ranger-guided walk on the wild side as the sun sets and the moon rises. Limited space; call for reservations.
 - Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, May 11, 6:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, July 9, 7:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.
- **Moonlight canoe trek** – Ranger-guided paddle under the full moon. Limited space; call for reservations and rental information for canoes and kayaks.
 - Sunday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
 - Friday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.

Special events

Spring in the Swamp – Saturdays and Sundays March 25 through April 16. Special activities for kids, wildflower walks at 2:00 p.m., and park staff and volunteers on the trails to point out wildlife and wildflowers during Nature's annual spring show.

Especially for kids

Wetlands Camp – Summer day camps for children 6-8 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. July 24-28; fee \$25) and children 9-11 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. June 5-9 or June 19-23 or July 10-14; fee \$40). Registration begins April 17.



French Quarter Visitor Center
419 Decatur Street, New Orleans
504-589-2636 ext. 1
Open daily 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Ranger-guided tours daily

90-minute walking tour explores the French Quarter's history and culture. 25 free tour tickets given out on the morning of the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. for 9:30 a.m. tour. No reservations. One ticket per person---each person wanting a ticket must be present.



Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery
8606 West St. Bernard Highway, Chalmette

Closed due to damage from Hurricane Katrina.
Chalmette Battlefield is expected to reopen in late spring.

Ranger-guided tours available;
for information and reservations call 504-589-2636 ext. 1.

